

**IN THE CLAIMS**

1-2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) A method for treating or preventing diarrhea mediated by pathogenic fungi in a ~~ruminant~~ bovine animal which suffers from intestinal colonization of the pathogenic fungi, comprising orally administering to the ~~ruminant~~ bovine animal a therapeutically effective amount of viable *Escherichia coli* strain DSM 6601.

4-7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising administering the *Escherichia coli* strain DSM 6601 for ~~at least about~~ 10 to 13 days.

9-13. (canceled)

14. (canceled)

15-16. (canceled)

17. (previously presented) A method for treating or preventing intestinal colonization of pathogenic fungi in a ~~ruminant~~ bovine animal, comprising orally administering to the ~~ruminant~~ bovine animal, a therapeutically effective amount of viable *Escherichia coli* strain DSM 6601.

18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 17, further comprising administering the *Escherichia coli* strain DSM 6601 for ~~at least~~ 10 to 13 days.

20. (canceled)

21. (canceled)